

# **OPENING**

**Mr Ravi Naidoo  
DBSA**

Good morning. My name is Ravi Naidoo and I'm the Group Executive for Development Planning at DBSA. Welcome to DBSA, Vulindlela Academy: this is the venue where we regularly host knowledge sharing events, and each year, a Knowledge Week, which is an important forum for discussing and agreeing upon key steps to achieve developmental improvements for the country and region. We believe as DBSA we have a convening power which allows us to bring together both government, and other key actors, to jointly tackle development challenges. And the purpose of this event is to do just that.

## **Last 2 Knowledge weeks**

The past two Knowledge weeks have focussed on Human Settlements (in 2010) and Local government turnaround (in 2009). In both instances we were worked closely with government, industry, civil society to try and identify key levers to drive change. This year, welcome to all of you who are here to discuss greening of our infrastructure programmes in South Africa. We hope to approach the conference in the same manner, and have some substantive action areas to highlight at the end of the 3 days. Please help us to by contributing to the programme.

## **Thanking partners**

I would like to start by thanking our partners and the supporters of this event: the Department of Environmental Affairs, the CSIR, SANBI and Construction Industry Development Board. All of these institutions have a critical role in the both the debate and the implementation of a greener infrastructure agenda. And we hope to continue to work with and deepen our partnerships with them. We are very pleased they were willing to come on board and support us as each brings an important perspective and knowledge on the area.

In particular, the DBSA has recently concluded an MOA with the DEA where we have agreed to partner around key elements of the green economy, including finance and programme identification. These will be critical areas to address if we want to put our country on a different, greener, development path.

### **Greening of infrastructure programmes – the purpose**

This event –scheduled over the next 3 days - will allow us to focus on how we look at transforming the way we deliver the major infrastructure programmes of the state – in transport, the built environment, water and so on – to ensure that they are better designed to limit damage to the natural environment, and to absorb shocks from it, as we see the impacts of climate change affect our country. This calls for better planning methods and approaches, and innovations in technologies. It also requires us to think about how we make choices.

### **DBSA government’s key partner in infrastructure delivery**

DBSA is government’s key partner in the accelerated delivery of infrastructure around the country, and we see our role as not only finance, but development planning, capacity development, and, in certain instances, programme management support.

It is in this context that we understand the important role we need to play in the delivery of appropriate, sustainable infrastructure.

For this reason our conference over the next 3 days will draw on global and local expertise, including case studies, and the breakaways will focus on certain priority sectors, particularly transport, buildings, water and ecosystem services.

### **Conference Line-up – opening session**

We are delighted to start this conference with a keynote address from Mr. Lawrence Agbemabiese from the United Nations Environment Programme in Paris. He will talk about some of the global developments and drivers of greener infrastructure – and green *knowledge* infrastructure – which is very much in keeping with our purpose in hosting a *Knowledge Week*.

### **Panel: conceptualising greener infrastructure**

After tea today we will have a panel which talks to conceptualising greener infrastructure, and we will be taking inputs from WWF, CSIR and Dept of PME. Each will give us their perspective from where they sit on the greening of infrastructure agenda. William Gumede, a colleague from the DBSA, will also contribute to this session, by highlighting lessons from recent research into integrated infrastructure planning in other parts of the world, and the kind of institutional forms that are necessary to advance this agenda. This is of critical importance as South Africa continues to roll out a major infrastructure programme, in which we need to achieve greater integration across sectors, but also between modes/ industries within sectors too.

### **Socio-economic development, jobs, standards and ecosystems as infrastructure**

Often the green agenda is posited as oppositional to the development agenda, and the session after lunch hopes to explore how these two agendas can be mutually supportive. It will also challenge us to think of ecosystems as infrastructure – and not ancillary natural features of our world. The role of standards as a driver of behaviour change in infrastructure planning development will also be considered. Speakers come from NALEDI, SANBI, SABS and WITS. We look forward to provocative inputs.

### **Min of DPE and panel on case studies**

Day 2 starts on a high note with the DBSA CE giving some strategic pointers after which he will introduce the Minister of Public Enterprises, Malusi Gigaba, who will set the scene for the rest of the conference. Minister Gigaba has many of the largest infrastructure SOEs in his oversight – thus he has direct observations on the opportunities and challenges associated with infrastructure planning and delivery. After the Minister and a brief break we will hear about the South African Renewables Initiative, which seeks to attract global green funds to significantly scale up the financing and localisation of renewable energy technologies in South Africa. We will also hear from Dr. Zav Rustomjee who will take us through some of the findings of a recent research project at the DBSA called Infrastructure Inputs Monitoring project, in which he

has traced the main input sectors into the major infrastructure programmes of both government, and the private sector. We will then move more onto case studies from both South Africa and further afield. The case study approach will continue into the afternoon, when we break into parallel sessions on the greening of the following infrastructure sectors:

- Transport and logistics,
- water and ecosystems and
- buildings, to include health, human settlements and education buildings.

### **Concluding Day**

Our final day will see us start off with an address from Minister Edna Molewa, followed by inputs from industry – CIDB and CESA – on how they see the greening infrastructure challenge. This will be followed by David Jarvis, one of the divisional executives in the Development Planning division, closing the conference by pulling together key strands and proposals to take forward in greening infrastructure programmes in the country.

We hope that this will help concretise a clear agenda for DBSA to pursue in partnership with key government departments, and agencies, as well as industry bodies and civil society. There is much work to be done to advance greener infrastructure delivery. Making real strides will require a clear set of steps and the identification of the best levers to drive change. We look forward to your assistance in helping us to achieve this intention, together.

So without further ado from me, I'm going to call upon the Chief Executive of DBSA, Mr Paul Baloyi, to offer some strategic pointers after which he will introduce the Minister of Public Enterprises , Malusi Gigaba.